

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were examined and stand rejected. In response to the Final Office Action, Claims 1 and 8 are amended and new Claims 16 and 17 are added. No claims are cancelled. Claims 1-17 remain in the application.

I. Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 8 to replace “the value” with “a value”. Claims 2-7 depend from amended independent Claim 1 and incorporate the limitations thereof. Withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,856,991 issued to Srivastava (“Srivastava”) and U.S. Patent No. 7,003,574 issued to Bahl (“Bahl”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,412,077 issued to Roden et al. (“Roden”).

In this Action, the Examiner recognizes that Srivastava and Bahl do not disclose the feature of increment and decrement of session label values, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 8. However, the Examiner relies on Roden to supply this element. Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s assertion. Applicants submit that Roden does not disclose the increment and decrement of session label values in received packets, and does not have one value in the packets sent by a server and another different value in the packets sent by a client, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 8.

Roden discloses the use of a session counter for each user to determine the number of sessions that have been authorized for the user (col. 11, lines 61-65 and col. 30, lines 25-28). Roden further discloses that a new session can be authorized if the session counter value for the user is less than a threshold (col. 11, lines 61-63). The session counter value disclosed by Roden is not in the received packet, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 8. Further, the session counter disclosed by Roden does not have one value in the packets sent by a server and another different value in the packets sent by a client. Rather, the session counter value of Roden is the number of authorized sessions associated with a user. The session counter value of Roden does

not change during the course of a session. Thus, the session counter value of Roden is different from the recited session label values in Claims 1 and 8.

Thus, Srivastava and Bahl and further in view of Roden does not teach or suggest each of the elements of Claims 1 and 8, as well as their respective dependent claims, namely, Claims 2-7 and 9-15. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-15 is requested.

Applicants have added new Claims 16 and 17 to further clarify that both C2S and S2C session label values are related to the same session. New Claims 16 and 17 recite "wherein a same C2S session label value is encapsulated in packets of the new session from the requesting client, and a same S2C session label value is encapsulated in packets of the new session from the assigned server, the S2C session label value being different from the C2S session label value." For at least the reasons mentioned above with respect to Claims 1 and 8, Srivastava and Bahl and further in view of Roden does not teach or suggest each of the elements of these new claims. Accordingly, allowance of Claims 16 and 17 is requested.

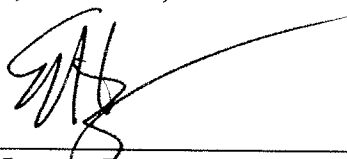
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

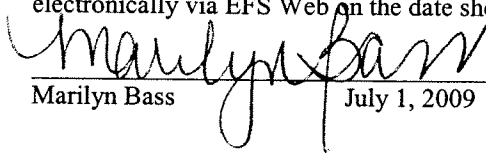
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below.



Marilyn Bass

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